

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518)237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD. \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Kathy Howe DATE: Sept. 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 South Fitzhugh Street TELEPHONE: (716)546-7029  
Rochester, NY 14608

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

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## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): William D. Auchter House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN: Greece
3. STREET LOCATION: 495 Elmgrove Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [X]
5. PRESENT OWNER: Edgar C. Turner ADDRESS: 497 Elmgrove Road  
Rochester, NY 14606
6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes [X] No [ ]  
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard [X] b. stone [ ] c. brick [X] (fdn.) d. board and batten [ ]  
e. cobblestone [ ] f. shingles [ ] g. stucco [ ] other: Asphal roof shingles.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints [ ]  
b. wood frame with light members [X]  
c. masonry load bearing walls [ ]  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
10. CONDITION: a. excellent [ ] b. good [ ] c. fair [X] d. deteriorated [ ]
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site [X] b. moved [ ] if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is a very nice foursquare. It's lovely with that nice bell-cast roof. Again, this is a representative house and is not terribly distinctive, although it has some nice features. I would give it a 'green plus.' " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green plus





14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

- a. none known [ ]                      b. zoning [X]\*                      c. roads [ ]  
d. developers [ ]                      e. deterioration [ ]  
f. other: \*Adjacent to commercial uses. \_\_\_\_\_

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn [ ]                      b. carriage house [ ]                      c. garage [X]  
d. privy [ ]                      e. shed [ ]                      f. greenhouse [ ]  
g. shop [ ]                      h. gardens [ ]  
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
j. other: \_\_\_\_\_

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land [ ]                      b. woodland [ ]  
c. scattered buildings [ ]  
d. densely built-up [X]                      e. commercial [X]  
f. industrial [ ]                      g. residential [X]  
h. other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1906 (per deed)

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

(see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: Residential



11c.

Porch deck with balustrade added at south elevation (c. 1988).

New wood steps added at front porch.

Some of the original six-light dormer windows have been replaced or covered.

Modern overhead door added at front (east) elevation of garage.

17. This house is located on a slight knoll on the west side of Elmgrove Road, south of the Conrail bridge in the southwest quadrant of the town. The lot is about 1/2-acre in size. A driveway, which is shared with Archer's Feed Center, is located north of the house. This drive leads back to a contributing, early-twentieth-century garage and to the Edgar C. Turner Plumbing and Heating Company (497 Elmgrove).

The surrounding neighborhood is primarily residential and includes late-nineteenth and twentieth-century frame houses. Of special interest to the south of this house are two transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival houses at 497 and 505 Elmgrove Road (see inventory forms). To the north is Archer's Feed Center, a modern brick commercial building.

18. Two and one-half story, American Foursquare style frame house with dual-pitched, hipped roof. The roof flares out near the corners and has a wide overhang with a frieze band below. Mission-shaped attic dormers project from the roof at the center of each side. Each of these has three small window openings. The house is clad with wide wood clapboards and rests on a brick foundation.

A one-story, hipped roof, enclosed porch projects from the south end of the front, east, elevation. The porch is enclosed by wood frame windows with three-light transoms above. The front corners of the porch feature brick piers. The porch door is a French door with sidelights. Like the main roof, the porch roof has broad, overhanging eaves.

Extending across the facade from the porch roof is a flared shed roof with a decorative bracket at the north end. Below this roof is a bay window with six-over-one, double-hung, wood sash

18. continued

in the front and four-over-one, double-hung sash on the angled sides. The second floor has two pairs of eight-over-one, double-hung wood sash.

An exterior end chimney with a corbelled top is located on the north elevation. On either side of this on the first floor are decorative leaded glass windows. The north elevation also has a bay window featuring two wood brackets below and a bracketed, hipped roof above. Directly above the bay window on the second floor is a pair of eight-over-one, double-hung wood windows.

The contributing garage is a square-plan, frame structure with a concrete block foundation, wood clapboard siding, a frieze band, and a dual-pitched, hipped roof to match the roof of the house. The north and west elevations of the garage have six-over-six, double-hung wood sash.

20. Built c. 1906, this house is architecturally significant in the town of Greece as a distinctive example of the American Foursquare style. Built for William D. Auchter and his wife, Florence M., the house is historically important for its association with the early-twentieth-century development of the Elmgrove section of Greece.

The house possesses a high level of integrity of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Characteristic design features of the style shown here include the box-like shape, hipped roof with broad, overhanging eaves, paired double-hung windows, and roof dormers. The use of a flared profile at the corners of the main roof, secondary roofs (front porch, front shed roof, and bay window hood), and even the garage roof helps to unify the architectural design. The curved, Mission-shaped roof dormers are another special design feature of the house. The intact frame garage adds to the architectural integrity of the property.

The American Foursquare was a popular architectural style for residences in the United States from the late 1890s into the 1920s. The simple, square form was economical to construct and provided a large area of living space, thus making it a popular house type for America's middle class. The popularity of the style was spread by builder's magazines, mail-order plan companies and the pre-cut, ready-for-assembly housing industry.

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Monroe County, New York  
495 Elmgrove Road  
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20. continued

In 1906 George W. and Ella Payne sold this parcel to William D. and Florence M. Auchter (Liber 721 of deeds, p. 344). The house is not shown on the 1902 county map. It first appears on the 1924 county map listed under the ownership of W.D. Auchter. Florence Auchter, widow of William D., is listed as the owner in the 1930 and 1938 suburban directories.

21.

Assessment Records. Assessment Office, Town of Greece, NY.

Hanchett, Thomas W. "The Four Square House Type in the United States." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* (1982): 51-53.

Kahn, Renee. "The American Foursquare." *The Old-House Journal* (February 1982): 29-32.

Liber 721 of Deeds, p. 344. 2 April 1906.

*Map of Monroe County, N.Y.* Philadelphia. PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1924.

*Rochester Suburban Directory for the Year 1930.* Rochester, NY: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1930.

*Rochester Suburban Directory for the Year 1938.* Rochester, NY: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1937.

